

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1 and 40- 42 to read as follows:

B<sup>1</sup> 1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for enhancing the adjuvant effect of IL-12 comprising: co-administering to a mammalian patient said IL-12, a vaccine antigen, and an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a nitric oxide neutralizing agent.

~~16-40~~ (TWICE AMENDED) An adjuvant composition comprising an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12 and an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a nitric oxide neutralizing agent, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

B<sup>2</sup> ~~41~~<sup>47</sup> (TWICE AMENDED) A vaccine composition comprising an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12, an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a nitric oxide neutralizing agent, and an effective protective amount of a vaccine antigen in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~42~~<sup>48</sup> (AMENDED) A method of preparing an adjuvant composition comprising combining in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier an effective amount of a vaccine antigen, and an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12 and an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a nitric oxide neutralizing agent.